

CHALLENGE



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SMASH RACISM AND LIBERAL FASCISTS

NEWARK, NJ, June 12—“Asian, Latin, Black, and white—workers of the world unite!” For the first time in decades, a multiracial group of workers chanted Progressive Labor Party’s (PLP) line down Clinton Avenue in Newark, a predominantly Black, working-class neighborhood with strong ties to the Mayor. Along the march, workers and students were attacked and blocked by Black city officials that work for Big Fascist Mayor Ras Baraka while marching down the hill to protest outside the 5th Pigs Precinct. Big Fascists are members of the liberal, imperialist ruling class, who pretend to be on the side of workers.

Nevertheless, this march affirmed PLP’s line that liberal rulers are the main danger to the working class. It is our responsibility as communists to tear down the veil and challenge both nationalism and identity politics while pushing for a multiracial, internationalist, communist, working-class leadership under PLP.

The system is violent, we will not be silent

Mayors and politicians around the world are weaponizing their identities as Black, Latin, lesbian, gay and women alike while manipulating the worldwide fightback inspired by workers in Minneapolis in response to the murder of George Floyd. Peaceful protests that show solidarity between the liberal politicians and workers are a cover up to push a Big Fascist agenda towards a war on the international working class. The same workers that politicians recruit to become *insert identity here* cops, judges, and military officials will become pawns to crush the revolutionary fightback of the working class.

Mayor Ras Baraka, son of the late Black nationalist poet Amiri Baraka, is using his community ties in Newark to attack workers and students that challenge his complicity in racism, sexism and anti-working class leadership. Since the ‘protest’ in May led by NJ Senate candidate Larry Hamm’s camp (People Organizing for Progress), Newark has been hailed by the New York Times as a city that has remained “relatively calm” (NYT, 6/1).

The mainstream media has always used the

theme of “peaceful protest” to “calm” the potential of organized revolutionary anger and tactically directed violence against the bosses and their cronies. To win people away from the dead end of politicians and voting to a more revolutionary approach, we MUST build a larger base.

Base building for communism

Leaders of the Newark Water Coalition (NWC), a multiracial group of workers and students organizing for clean water in Newark have been brave enough to identify and speak out against Mayor Ras’ politricks. However, the extent of their critique stopped there. While we also had criticisms of Baraka, PLP’s goal is to win workers to understand that the capitalist system fails workers, no matter what politician is in place. To do that we build with the working class and win them to understanding the limits of reform work under capitalism.

When NJ comrades and friends asked what we should do as a response to workers of the world uniting to fight against police terror and racism, the first thing we did was build with some of the dedicated fighters in the reform movement. Two weeks prior to the Mutual Aid March we had a plan to lead a NJ wide protest but realized we had gone about the organizing incorrectly. Veteran comrades of PLP warned newer members that marching down Clinton Ave could leave everyone vulnerable to being physically attacked by the cops and the Mayor’s thugs. We needed to be prepared with a plan and to be accountable for everyone. We also realized that we had not checked in with other friends and PL’ers. Back to the drawing board. We shared this same warning with the Newark Water Coalition that we could very likely be attacked, not just because we were marching toward a police precinct but because Ras Baraka and his family had been base building in the area for the last 50 years and have won workers over ideologically. In the end, they decided to march in that area.

No good mayors in a racist system

From the start of the march, workers from the neighborhood yelled “you know don’t nobody

want you here, go somewhere else, we have political power in our city.” When workers who were part of the march tried to hand them water, vegetables and diapers that friends of the Newark Water Coalition donated, many refused. Still, PL’ers pushed the politics further and chanted, “When Black workers are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back!” to remind workers on the sidewalks and on their rooftops that no matter what we identify as, we are all a part of one international working class.

Chants were used as a tool to push forward and boost the morale of the march when friends of Baraka antagonized us. While some of us chanted, other PL’ers distributed CHALLENGE. About 20 store owners and workers accepted CHALLENGE. Before the march, we made it our goal to push our line with chants and CHALLENGE sales. The final chant was “No good MAYORS in a racist system.”

Baraka shut down the march. By doing so, he sent two messages that protesters must remember

To the workers: don’t come into our neighborhood until you have built a base amongst the working class and are ready to fight. To Prudential, Goldman Sachs, Audible, and the rest of the capitalist class in Newark: stick with us as your political representatives because we can control the working class for you better than anyone.

It is impossible to support the exploiters and the exploited at the same time. Some friends from the Newark Water Coalition are running for local office. This is the same framework that politicians like Baraka, former president Barack Obama and congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez used to become Big Fascist leaders.

How do you build strength and power in the working class? By standing in COMPLETE solidarity with workers and fighting for a communist revolution where workers around the world lead. Anything short of that is a tool to crush working-class power and potential. History and lessons from workers around the world teach us that. Find a study group near you and join PLP today! 📞

OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

From Atlanta to Oaxaca, identity politics has got to go!

The following editorial has been written by comrades in Mexico to warn the international working class about the dangers of identity politics and liberalism.

From Atlanta, Georgia to Oaxaca, Mexico, the capitalist bosses are using identity politics and sell-out misleaders to try to pacify the angry masses. But as millions have rebelled around the world, more and more demonstrators are seeing that the problem isn’t just a few “bad” cops. Racist violence is an integral part of the capitalists’ racist profit system, a state apparatus that protects the bosses’ profits by exploiting, dividing, and terrorizing the international working class.

Amid a global pandemic and economic depression, as the rulers’ callous greed and glaring weaknesses are exposed, many protesters are embracing communist ideas. They’re coming to see that all politicians and cops are our class enemies, regardless of their skin color. And that only a mass, multiracial organization, led by communist politics and the most militant Black and Latin workers, can smash the capitalist system, the source of all racism and inequality. Our inspirational unity in this fightback is the bosses’ worst nightmare.

A lynching in Atlanta

On June 15, the racist Atlanta police shot to death a 27-year-old Black man, Rayshard Brooks. His crime? Falling asleep in his car in the drive-through lane at a Wendy’s restaurant. The cops’ lynching of Brooks reignited the anger of Black, Latin, Asian, and white workers, who burned the restaurant to the ground.

The U.S. finance capital Big Fascists are desperately straining to quell the revolt by channeling it into electoral politics and promoting Black politicians who serve the racist bosses and their system. In Atlanta, the most prominent misleaders include Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Congressman John Lewis, and former Mayor Andrew Young, who recently invoked the racist slogan “All Lives Matter” and recalled the time he attempted a “reconciliation” with members of the Ku Klux Klan (New York Times, 6/19).

These bosses’ puppets are much like the Black politicians in South Africa, who work hand in hand with the old white apartheid ruling class to keep exploiting and killing Black workers. They promote the lie that the working class can fight the bosses’ racism by electing politicians who “look like them.”

The politicians’ opportunism is nothing new. Shortly after the current rebellion was sparked by the May 25 strangulation murder of George Floyd, a massive and integrated group of young workers took to the Atlanta streets. They burned a police precinct and attacked the offices of CNN, whose founder, Ted Turner, is a billionaire backer of Bottoms. Instead of blaming her police for viciously assaulting the protesters, the mayor berated Black youth for the violence. She was following the playbook of ex-Stooge in Chief Barack Obama, who attacked the young Baltimore rebels as “thugs” after the cops executed 25-year-old Freddie Gray in 2015. When the young Atlanta rebels ignored Bottoms and the demonstrations kept growing, she was forced to fire six cops caught on tape taserings two Black college students and dragging them out of their car. A local Black prosecutor then brought murder charges against killer kkkop Garrett Rolfe, who shot Brooks twice in the back. In a racist response, dozens of Atlanta police—the so-called “good cops”—called in sick to protest.

Last year, when workers weren’t out in the streets, Bottoms showed her true loyalties after a Black police officer on her own security detail shot and killed an 18-year-old Black youth, D’Etrick Griffin, for sliding into the cop’s unoccupied, unmarked car at a gas station. With the mayor’s backing, the cop, Oliver Simmonds, was let off by the district attorney. It didn’t matter that Atlanta specifically forbids the police from shooting at unarmed people, even if they’re fleeing (AJC, 2/8/2019). Bottoms then rewarded the police with a salary increase to “allow them to live in the city of Atlanta” (CBS News, 6/18). As if having killers as our neighbors makes us safer!

Atlanta is a majority-Black city with an uninterrupted string of Black mayors since 1974. Together they have cleared the way for gentrification by pushing out Black workers (AJC, 5/9/2019). Though the city is known as a haven for Black capitalists, it has the worst racist inequality of any city in the U.S. In 2018, the “lowest 20 percent in Atlanta earned an average of \$9,400, while the highest 20 percent brought home more than \$256,000.” The majority of the local Black working class lives in poverty (Statista.com, 11/27/2019).

AMLO punches right

In Mexico, the bosses have used identity politics to put down workers’ fury and rebellion against extreme poverty and racist attacks against our class. In recent weeks, we’ve seen the assassinations by cops of Giovanni Lopez, a construction worker from Jalisco, for the “crime” of not wearing a face mask, and of Alexander Martinez, a 16-year-old from Oaxaca. In Mexico City, riot police kicked a young woman of 16 until she was unconscious and hospitalized. All were casualties of the class war between the oppressed, the excluded, and the debt-ridden, on the one hand, and those who protect the bosses and write the laws to guarantee the capitalists’ maximum profit, on the other.

The fightback against these killers and their governing accomplices has been blunted by the popularity of the fake-leftist Morena Party and President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Trading on his identity as a mestizo, a person of mixed indigenous and European ancestry, AMLO has exploited the despair of the poorest of the population, who live day after day with the violence of the cartels and mining companies and ruthless bosses. The president has deployed the National Guard (NG) as a false promise of “public safety” from corrupt politicians and federal police who collude with drug traffickers. Formed out of the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, and the federal police, the NG is a forceful warrior battalion that for decades has committed abuses against the population while smashing social protest.

As AMLO rivals U.S. Terrorist in Chief Donald Trump for mishandling the Covid-19 crisis, and racist capitalist inequality in Mexico only gets worse, the president makes phony speeches against capitalism. AMLO feints with his left and punches the working class with his right. His façade as a self-made “common man,” based in part on his mestizo identity, has deceived large sections of the working class to support big-money ruling class projects—like the Trans-Isthmus Corridor and the Mayan Train—that previous presidents only dreamt of.

A massacre in Oaxaca

In 2006, in Oaxaca, the working class experienced firsthand the danger of being represented by and supporting mestizo politicians. After teachers led a massive rebellion for improved working conditions throughout the Central Valley, and gained control of Oaxaca City, they were violently suppressed by an intervention of the military, disguised as police officers. But in reality, the movement’s fatal weakness was the influence of class traitors like Santiago Chepi and Flavio Sosa, who assumed leadership within the teachers’ movement and ultimately diverted the strength of the rebellion into negotiations with the government (<https://tinyurl.com/y9dnamro>). Like most teachers in Oaxaca, Chepi and Sosa came from working-class mestizo families. After betraying the movement and bringing it back under the bosses’ control, Chepi and Sosa promised to push for reforms as elected representatives in Oaxaca’s municipal government. After accomplishing nothing, Chepi and Sosa created more false hope and then widespread cynicism through the election of sell-out liberals like Gabino Cue as governor of the state of Oaxaca, a disaster for the working class. Cue intensified the bosses’ attack against the teachers, which culminated in the 2016 massacre at Nochixtlan. After teachers and students’ parents blocked highways, the police slaughtered at least six workers and injured more than a hundred more (La Jornada, 12/19/16).

Unite in communist solidarity

For the future of our class, workers in the current anti-racist movement must reject the bosses’ use of identity politics that leads to pacifism, liberal fascism, and inter-imperialist war against our class sisters and brothers. We have a better alternative: to unite with Progressive Labor Party and pour all of our anger and energy into building a multiracial, multigenerational party of women and men, Black, Latin, Asian, and white. To build an international communist party that brings us shoulder to shoulder against a system that oppresses and kills in the interests of capital.

We are dedicated to fighting for the international working class. Through our newspaper, CHALLENGE, our study groups and cadre schools, but most of all through political leadership in struggle with masses of anti-racist workers, PLP keeps alive the flame of communist ideas from Oaxaca to Atlanta, from Bogota to Mexico City and beyond. Don’t vote, revolt! Join Progressive Labor Party!🔥

Indiana: Confront racism with multiracial unity

INDIANA—There have been worker-led protests all over the world against ongoing racist police terror. Our class has come together in response to kkkops murdering Black workers nationally—George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon Reed, Ahmaud Arbery and many more. Workers have shown that attacks from fascists will not lessen our strength and determination for justice, which will never be achieved under capitalism, but only with international communist revolution.

In the past two weeks, workers have filled the streets in protest in Northwest Indiana (NWI), even in the face of violent cop attacks against groups of majority Black workers. The white working class responded with numerous solidarity marches in areas where no such antiracist displays had happened before. Members of the communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP), along with our base, have been a part of these ongoing worker fight-backs. We continue to build with those who see that cops use racism and terror to intentionally kill and instill fear in the working class.

They say get back, we say fight back!

A rally was held in front of the police station in the city of Hammond to show that workers from multiple areas stood in solidarity against racist killer cops.. The comrades present were bold, getting out CHALLENGE, leading revolutionary chants and calling for workers to see that these murders-by-cops are not just a string of bad acts. They are a purposeful part of capitalism, which relies on racist terror to make other workers fall in line. The tools of racism, sexism, and classism, along with the very real fear of being the next victim of cop abuse or murder, are the primary weapons of bosses and their goons.

Workers rebelliously shared their experiences of surviving ruling class attacks. An Iraq war veteran talked about being beaten and hospitalized by killer cops. A young woman shared that justice had still not been served for her brother, Rashad Cunningham, a Black man fatally shot by the klan-in-blue.



After the program formally ended, a young Black woman got on the mic and declared that she came to march. Those remaining agreed and roughly 50 workers walked toward a main street chanting against racist mistreatment.

From the beginning, cops trailed behind the crowd. The lies in the bosses' press created an image of Black 'thugs' tearing through the city. In reality, these mostly young working-class people talked about the specific effects that the racist system, from abusive cops, to schools, to unemployment, had on their lives.

When the group stopped to rally at city hall, a comrade spoke about the vicious nature of capitalism and how the bosses fear exactly what is happening: unified action led by the Black working class against their oppression.

Fascist dogs attack, workers fightback

As the group neared the highway, which separated mostly working-class Hammond from the upper income, predominantly white town of Munster, the cops formed a riot line. They attacked marchers with toxic pellets and a blinding, suffocating spray. A 17-year-old girl was sprayed full force and started to go into shock on the street, screaming in pain.

Comrades tried to help and called for an ambulance. They were told that cops were preventing any aid workers from coming through. A Party member and other workers carried the young girl to the ambulance a couple of blocks, walking past

riot cops, only to have the traumatized teen pass out and become unresponsive before getting her to the ambulance.

Cops also sprayed PLP members, including the wife of a longtime PL'er who used their house as a safe-space for injured workers. After this ongoing attack, the remaining crowd of workers continued their march away from cops and back toward the direction from which they came.

While a small group was recovering at the home of the veteran comrade, the conversation veered toward people not believing how vicious the cops were toward a non-violent group of people. Comrades made comments about how workers united against capitalistic terror is always a mortal threat to the bosses.

The communist fight continues

These worker uprisings have continued, as has the chance for comrades to build with new workers. One report-back from the Party's fights in Minneapolis, Indiana, and Chicago was virtually attended by over 200 workers, future comrades and fighters. We must continue to be present and active during these class conflicts.

We put into practice our line and our tactics, and show other workers what communist antiracist, multiracial, intergenerational, antisexist, inclusive fight back looks like. Being consistent and reliable in our contact with workers and attentive to the lessons we learn in this period is the way that we grow and eventually win. Power and victory to the working class!✊

Letter

From Alex Flores to George Floyd, hell yeah! We'll unite and fight!

For the last seven months, we have been involved in the fight for justice for Alex Flores, killed by LAPD on November 19, 2019. For six weeks, we protested every night in front of the "Shootin' Newton" police station. After Alex was buried, we moved to Friday nights and have not missed a Friday yet.

As we continued to get ignored by the police, the DA, the politicians, and pretty much everyone who makes decisions about Alex's case, anger grew. We surrounded police cars leaving the station. We took over street intersections. The community began to know us through our regular presence and canvassing. More recently, many joined us. When the politicians wanted everyone to stay home, we fought to make protesting this system "essential business".

George Floyd was killed on a Monday and within days, protests erupted in every U.S. state. On that Thursday, our friends from the Progressive Labor Party called us and asked if we wanted to travel with them to Minneapolis. Our answer was "Hell yeah!"

Two days later, we were on a plane heading into battle, which our seven months of fighting prepared us for. We did not know yet that this would be "the best worst experience" of our lives.

Arriving on the ground, we went directly to the 5th precinct where thousands were gathered. Across the street from the station was a Wells Fargo bank burned to the ground. That hit us because we never saw anything like that before. It was covered in graffiti saying, "You Don't Own Us" and "F*ck Capitalism". It clearly represented the intense hatred workers in that city had for this racist system. By this time, the fires that started in Minneapolis had already spread around the globe. It felt great to be a part of that worldwide struggle.

As we looked around the crowd, anyone and

everyone was there. It was somewhat surprising because we never saw anything like that before, but also incredibly inspiring. Even though likely no one there personally knew George Floyd, they were still fighting for justice, not just for George, but for all workers. There were men, women, transgender and gender non-conforming workers. There were Muslim, Asian, Latin, Black and white workers. There were young and old. And everyone was hungry; hungry for answers; hungry for fightback; hungry for change. When we started a bullhorn rally, hundreds gathered to listen as we explained that police murder and racism will always exist under capitalism, so we need communist revolution. Workers grabbed for CHALLENGE like they were starving, and it was the only food in sight. Workers screamed our chants, fists in the air. Many asked if the Party had a chapter in Minneapolis.

The sun started to set; curfew was upon us. Hundreds around us chanted, "F*ck your curfew. We're not going anywhere." Minutes later a march of about 300, mainly young people, moved quickly down the main street. We jumped in the middle and started to lead chants. We were nervous about what might happen. Would the cops beat us up? Would we be arrested? But we kept going because we had confidence in the people around us and the members of the Party we came with to take care of us. There was so much solidarity around us. People passed food, water, hand sanitizer, goggles to protect from tear gas. And the Party has experience in these kinds of movements, so we continued and left our fears behind us.

The police did not disappoint. They upheld their history of brutality against those who stand against the system and attacked our march with tear gas. We also heard stories that were later verified (NPR



Latest Flores Fridays protest in Los Angeles

that the police slashed the tires of cars parked near protest meet-up locations. We were not deterred though. That stand-off with the police, while scary, reminded us of the system we are living under and why we so desperately need to overthrow it. Being on this trip made it clear how many of the things we struggle with in our day-to-day lives are caused by capitalism.

In the short two days we were there, a kinship developed. With the unity we saw, we feel like if we continue to fight back, there is no way we cannot make changes to this system. We brought the story of Alex Flores to Minneapolis and they embraced it like he was their family. Alex's story even ended up live on the Monday morning news in Australia!

Workers of the world unite! During this trip one of us decided to join the PLP and make the commitment to fighting for communism. The other one of us wants to learn more through staying involved. But for both of us, one thing is clear: if the opportunity to take another trip like this comes up again, we will both say again "Hell yeah!"

Multiracial unity against police terror

Antioch, CA, June 21—Recently graduated Antioch High School students organized a protest in support of abolishing and defunding the police. An integrated group of students, former students, and parents were greeted by the community with honking horns and closed fist salutes. Sparked by the racist murder of George Floyd, workers and students are rising up all over the world to stand against racism and often against the capitalist system that breeds racism. The Progressive Labor Party applauds the young workers and students of Antioch. We invite them to join us in the long struggle to destroy racism with communist revolution.

Community members shared water, snacks, and free masks. Students marched to the police station, accompanied by comrades in vehicles with signs attacking the racist system. People waved and cheered the march on. The people of Antioch are fed up with police violence.

At the police station, victims of police terror and their family members spoke. A mother described how an Antioch cop had pulled her son out of a car and attacked him in a way similar to the murder of George Floyd. The mother was wearing a sign that included a photo of smirking Antioch cop Calley kneeling on her son's neck. She expressed concern over the attack on her son and spoke about her nephew Rakeem Rucks who was killed by Antioch Police in 2015 (Antioch Police paid \$475,000 to the Rucks family in 2020).

Police terror protects racist system

A female student gave a powerful speech urging people to use the phrase “police terror” instead of “police brutality” because “police terror” is the intended effect. It’s a public display of force that’s meant to make the community fear the racist system. She then called for the abolishment of the police, which caused the crowd to erupt into cheers. But let’s be clear. The rich and powerful capitalists and their puppet politicians need the cops to protect them (see back page). The police will only be abolished through a working class revolution for communism.

Next, a man who was attacked by police spoke. The police knocked on his door claiming that the music was too loud and demanded to search the house, claiming to smell marijuana. He refused, so they pulled him out of his home, beat him badly, assaulted his friends, arrested him and charged him with assaulting the police. At the county jail, he was beaten again. More than a year later, all charges were dropped as a police video was produced proving no assault on the police.

Another female student addressed the crowd and said, “Cops are the armed assassins of a capitalist system which must use force to control the working class, especially super-exploited Black and Latin workers. Rebellion is not enough. This racist terror can only be smashed with a systemic advancement. Capitalism must be overcome and replaced with a new system



where people, not profits are valued”. Reform struggles are important but limited. She finished by explaining why we need to organize for a new government system. In the Progressive Labor Party we fight for that new government system. It’s called communism.

The protestors had a range of outlooks. Some called for the “8 Can’t Wait” reforms, some called for the defunding of the police, and others called for the abolishment of the police. Everyone called for an end to a system driven by racism and defended by police terror. CHALLENGE newspapers were distributed. Information about Antioch’s bloated police budget was distributed along with instructions on how to tell the city council that the police should be defunded in favor of programs that fit the needs of the people.

Protestors demanded the immediate firing of a killer cop named Michael Mellone who was hired by the Antioch Police after killing a homeless worker from Mexico named Luis-Gongora Pat while a cop in San Francisco. They demanded justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rakeem Rucks, and the countless other victims of police terror.

After rallying at the police station, the student-led group marched back to their school. Along the way, they took over an intersection and knelt for eight minutes where they chanted and were again greeted by supportive passersby.

The mayor of the city and the council are under increasing pressure from the young people of Antioch. Recently the mayor announced an investigation into the killer cop Mellone. The protestors are under no delusions that getting one cop fired will cause a lasting change. The young people of Antioch are leading, and discovering their power through practice. They are a force for a better world. We invite them to join the Progressive Labor Party and fight for communism.✪



Racism= super-profits for bosses, division for workers

Racism and racist oppression exist to support and enhance exploitation, or wage slavery, the political-economic foundation of capitalism. Anti-Black racism is the basis for the oppression of Black workers in all spheres of life and, in the U.S., along with the genocide of the indigenous population, it’s also the foundation for the racist oppression and exploitation of Latin and immigrant workers. And it is the source of AT LEAST \$500 BILLION in “super-profits”: that is the difference between the household income of white and Black families.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 17 million Black households in the U.S. In 2019, the median income of those families was \$41,361. The median household income of white families was \$70,642. If the bosses were to pay those Black families the same as white families, they would have to fork over an additional \$497 BILLION, reducing the bosses’ profits by that half TRILLION dollars. [\$70,642 x 17 million families = \$1,200,914,000,000; \$41,361 x 17 million families = \$703,137,000,000] [\$70,642-\$41,361=\$29,281 income differential per family X 17 million families=\$ billion extra profit for the capitalists]

This super-exploitation of Black workers is the combined legacy of 401 years of slavery, followed by Jim Crow/ KKK/police violence; enforced racist discrimination in housing, education and healthcare; exclusion of Black veterans from the post-World War II GI Bill — to name only a few examples.

With all the hypocrisy from liberals, conservatives, Democrats and even some Republicans vowing to “do something about systemic racism,” about “reforming” the cops who’ve been enforcing that racism for centuries, and with all the media editorials and politicians’ op-ed pieces decrying this beastly oppression: there is not one solitary word mentioned about that half trillion super-profits reaped from racism.

Nor are there any crocodile tears shed about the use of that racism against Black workers to drive down the wages of the entire working class, including white workers. Major economic studies (documented in Racial Inequality by Michael Reich, 1981) demonstrate the greater the racist wage differentials between Black and white workers, the worse the living conditions, healthcare, education, welfare/ public services, and labor unionization rates are for white workers also. This is another untold source of still extra profit for the capitalist exploiters.

Racism hurts and divides Black, Latin, Asian, white and immigrant workers and prevents working class unity that would fight the bosses’ attacks on our entire class. We draw on history’s countless examples of multi-racial working class fightback to smash racism at its source: capitalism.

The rulers will never surrender their capitalist profit system peacefully. It cannot be reformed. It must be overthrown. The working class that is taking to the streets by the tens of thousands to oppose racist police terror must be won to see that only communist revolution — wiping out the bosses and their profits — can destroy this racist system. That is the goal of the Progressive Labor Party!

Book Review

What communism in China achieved in public health

A Review of Away with all Pests: An English Surgeon in People's China Dr. Joshua S. Horn 1954-1969. (London: 1969.) See full version of this review at www.plp.org

As of June 14, 2020, the coronavirus pandemic has infected nearly 8 million people worldwide and killed over 430,000 people. The U.S. has the most deaths—117,000 plus, and the most cases, over 2 million. It also has the costliest health care system in the world, but it is a health care system that for working people has been systematically dismantled or weakened for decades.

In March, CNN reported that the U.S. is the only developed nation without universal health care. Nearly 28 million non-elderly Americans, or 10.4 percent, were uninsured in 2018, and the uninsured rate has increased over the past two years.

A run-for-profit healthcare system—the way capitalism runs everything from public health, housing, the prison system, and education—guarantees that the well-being of the vast majority of workers in the U.S., including over 10 million undocumented workers, 2.3 million inmates, and over half a million homeless, will be defenseless when they get ill.

How did communism in China in the 1950s and early 1960s—one of the world's most working-class countries when it declared its independence in October, 1949-- address its own terrible epidemics and its nearly non-existent healthcare system.

China returned to capitalism more than 40 years ago, and now the working class is suffering under the same miseries as workers around the world. But for a period of time China was under the leadership of the working class and *Away with All Pests* (1969) by Doctor Joshua Horn is a perfect place to start to understand how politics, an economic system, and a philosophic commitment to the working class determines the well-being of people.

Dr. Horn was a British trained surgeon and a dedicated Marxist. He and his family lived in China from 1954 to 1969. Horn details how a very poor, newly organized communist state went about eradicating some of the world's worst diseases, plagues that had killed millions of Chinese over hundreds of years. During the nearly fifteen years he was in the People's Republic, Horn saw firsthand how an entire nation built an effective and free public health system.

Capitalism had devastated the working class in China. In 1949, 80 percent of the population of over a billion were illiterate. There were only fifteen doctors in the entire vast province of Xinjiang. Industrial output had been decimated by war. Subsistence agriculture was carried out over much of the country with famine an ever-present fear. In Shanghai 20,000 people died on the streets each year from disease and starvation.

"Poverty and ignorance," wrote Horn, "were reflected in a complete lack of sanitation as a result of which fly and water-borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, and dysentery, took a heavy toll. Worm infestation was practically universal. Untreated people lived on the fringe of starvation and this so lowered their resistance to disease that epidemics carried off thousands every year. The average life expectancy in China was about twenty-eight years.

There were no preventive inoculations against infectious diseases, and from time to time epidemics of smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough and meningitis swept through the countryside with devastating results. Military occupation and the licentiousness of the landlords and local gentry spread venereal diseases among the people and no treatment was available. The prevalence



of tuberculosis can be gauged from the fact that in 1946 sixty per cent of all applicants for student visas for study abroad were found to be suffering from this disease."

The communist revolution had been victorious in 1949, and one of its principal tasks was providing healthcare, once reserved only for the wealthy, to China's working-class, especially in the countryside. Before 1949 the vast majority of those living in China's countryside, almost a quarter of the world's population, lacked access to any healthcare at all. Bringing healthcare to almost a quarter of the world's population was one of the great achievements of Chinese communism. Life expectancy was doubled. Infant mortality greatly reduced.

Foremost among China's many plagues was schistosomiasis. Sometimes called the "unconquerable disease" it is caused by parasites carried by snails. In 2015, it affected about 252 million people worldwide. An estimated 200,000 die from it each year (U.S. NIH, 2019). In tropical countries, schistosomiasis is second only to malaria among parasitic diseases with the greatest social

and economic impact.

How did the Communist Party of China of the 1950s build from scratch a public health system to eradicate these epidemics that more than rivaled in lethality our current coronavirus pandemic?

This herculean effort mobilized thousands of ordinary people, together with medical personnel, to go into the countryside-- where 80 percent of the total population lived-- to provide healthcare education, prevention, and treatment to millions of workers. One way this was accomplished was through health teams. Mobile medical teams were organized and sent to the most working-class areas seeking out patients. These teams were made up of 80,000 people who worked among 12 people's communes in the countryside. These teams were divided into smaller brigades which maintained health clinics.

Doctors and medical personnel were sent out from these clinics into local areas and remote villages. Some focused on dental and birth control. Specialists were sent to areas affected by particular afflictions, sometimes travelling on foot or by riding donkeys.

Chinese communist medical personnel often lived with peasants in their homes in the villages. Healthcare was no longer a luxury afforded only by the wealthy. Doctors and their patients lived and worked side by side. These health care providers came to be called "barefoot doctors." Mobile teams trained sanitary workers and midwives to be sent to the rural community. The intention was not merely to impart medical knowledge to young people, but to promote the communist ideology of egalitarianism, in which rural health workers would retain close links with the peasants and who would remain permanently in the countryside.

To mobilize the peasantry against the snails, medical workers explained the nature of the illness with lectures, films, posters, and radio-talks. When the peasants came to understand the nature of the disease, they worked out methods to eradicate it. The entire population in county after county, supplemented by soldiers of the People's Liberation Army, students, teachers and office workers, drained the rivers and ditches, dug away and buried their banks. As a result, not only schistosomiasis but smallpox, typhoid, diphtheria, infantile paralysis and whooping cough practically disappeared from rural areas. China, which was still dominated by communist politics in the 1950s and 60s, all but eliminated snail fever with an 85 percent to 95 percent cure rate among afflicted people.

Horn was deeply inspired by what he saw. He ends *Away with All Pests* by repeatedly emphasizing the primacy of communist ideology in restoring social and medical health to a countryside of over 800 million peasants, a population which had for over a century been the victims of war, poverty, foreign invasions, and feudalism. ☺



LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Englewood rally welcomed by working class

“White Cop Black Cop all the same, racist terror is the name of their game.” A multiracial, intergenerational group of 30 Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends chanted as they marched around an intersection on Chicago’s South Side. This was spurred on by seeing the cops roll up to some young men who had been appreciating our rally.

It turned out that the Black cops who had been talking to the young men were telling them that if they agreed with what those “White folks” were saying then they needed to go join them on the corner PLP was on. “These White folks aren’t from here. They are trying to get you to act up.”

The young man who had brought us an entire 24 pack of water bottles from the corner store just 15 minutes earlier said “I told them [the cops], ‘they’re [the marchers] not telling me what to do, I’m a grown man but, you [the cops] I know what you do’ he said disgustedly, adding a vehement “F*ck the police.”

During this 90-minute rally, we distributed 200 fliers about the racist murder of George Floyd and the need for communist revolution, as well as 250 CHALLENGEs. We distributed masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers to anyone in need. Hundreds of cars honked in appreciation.

While the largest protests happened downtown that day (and many of us participated in those too), we chose to go to the Southside of Chicago in the morning because of the racist over-policing of these neighborhoods. Just the week before, near the intersection of our rally, the cops beat and arrested young black youths for not physically distancing. This is also a neighborhood where we have comrades who teach in the high school slated for closure by the City.

The combination of school closing and racist police terror show what the City has planned for Englewood—more racist state terror. Racism and capitalism go hand in hand and we have to fight both with every ounce of our strength to defeat them.

We can’t let the bosses’ racist plans for Englewood and the rest of Chicago be carried out. We will continue to build with workers and students in these neighborhoods to fight back. Power to the working class!

★★★★★

Oakland: antiracist rush hour

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) led the way with a powerful workers’ action that shut the West Coast ports down on June nineteenth to end systemic racism. Thousands joined in: rallies, a march, bike brigades, and car caravans. The caravan was so long, we dubbed it the “antiracist rush hour.” This certainly shows that the working class on the job can have an outsized impact on profits when they shut it down against systemic racism.

Thousands of young men and women marched in multiracial unity with the Port shutdown. They



In Chicago PLP raises banner of internationalism and communism

expressed class-consciousness through chants like, “Ain’t no Power like the power of the workers ‘cause the power of the workers, don’t stop.”

One speaker, Boots Riley, explained “our power” is because “we create wealth.” He called on the thousands at the rally to organize where they work to shut it down. “We’ll stop the world and make them MFs, jump off.” Of course, the working class needs an organized international Party for that.

In the caravan, PLP’s car posters focused on multiracial, international working-class unity to smash capitalism and build a communist society. Marchers pumped their fists and took pictures of our cars. Some PL’ers distributed fliers and CHALLENGE. We joined in the just fury of the working class at this racist, fascist disregard of human life and are inspired by the rebellions of the past weeks. This can be the start of the strategic fighting force of workers joining with the demonstrations in the streets if the workers on the job go beyond the “legalisms” in union contracts and “shut it down” with political strikes or job actions.

At the same time, our leaflet addressed the limitations of reforms, which have not stopped the racist and sexist murders by the cops. We recognize that police murder is racist class terror. Capitalist profits need exploitation and a divided workforce; racism, anti-immigrant attacks and sexism are essential for that.

Replacing the present system with one where people not profits are valued and people can develop to their full potential requires a revolution for a communist political-economic system. PLP strives to be the party that builds that new system.

★★★★★

Police terror is worldwide

I have been talking about racist police terror with a friend, who is a maintenance worker at the school where I teach, and a CHALLENGE reader who comes from Gambia. When I suggested that racist police terror was an international phenomenon under capitalism, he cried, “Oh yes, it’s true!”

Then he recounted a story his cousin told him about an incident that happened just last week.

His cousin knows a man who is a poor farmer living in a village. One day last week, after tending his crops, he was coming back home on his scooter. The police stopped him in the street and asked him for his registration. He said that he had all his papers, but they were at home, and offered to get them. As an act of good faith, he even offered to leave them his ID until he could return with the registration. The cops refused and demanded the keys to his scooter. “How can I go home then? It’s far.”

The cops didn’t care. They forcibly tried to take his keys from him and in the process, they broke his arm. A few minutes after telling me this story, my friend texted me a photo of the man with a broken arm.

“Why do you think they did that,” I asked my friend.

“They want money,” he replied.

They are corrupt. Of course, this is true. Cops around the world are known for taking bribes, working with drug dealers, shaking down small businesses for “protection.” But as we spoke about it, we went deeper. Who are the cops protecting? Who are they attacking? They protect the large landowners, the big businesses. They are protecting the profit system. And they are attacking the working class, terrorizing them into submitting to the brutal capitalist order and a life of poverty. The racist aspect of the situation becomes clear when one realizes the history of Gambia, whose workers have suffered under the yoke of British imperialism for several hundred years. Even now, 55 years after “independence,” they remain part of the British Commonwealth.

This worker has been an enthusiastic reader of CHALLENGE who regularly takes extra papers to give to coworkers, friends, and family. This international solidarity is crucial to building our movement to destroy capitalism forever.

★★★★★

Visit us at plp.org for more letters on the fightback!

Arnie: Groundbreaking comrade's memory lives on

Comrade Arnie Indenbaum died at 12:01 AM on May 2 at the age of 92, a minute after the close of May Day. Arnie had been one of the early members of the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM — predecessor of the Progressive Labor Party) — and was at its founding conference in July 1962. One of his first responsibilities was to help organize a student trip to Cuba, breaking the travel ban instituted by President Kennedy. For this action he and other PLM members and supporters were subpoenaed to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), which was conducting an anti-communist witch-hunt to enforce the travel ban.

Fighting anti-communist intimidation

Arnie refused to cooperate with HUAC’s red-baiting. He charged the Committee with “attempting to prevent U.S. students from exercising their right to travel and from finding out the specific nature of the Cuban system.” He testified that “what the U.S. government and this Committee [HUAC]

says about Cuba is an outrageous distortion and lie.” Arnie’s indictment of HUAC was part of a campaign which PLM — and later the PLP — launched to expose the Committee’s anti-communism, including mass demonstrations in Buffalo and Washington, leading to HUAC’s eventual dissolution.

PLM on the railroad

Arnie was a brakeman on the New York Central R.R. for ten years until being laid off in 1963. He participated in numerous actions opposing the company’s mass layoffs, including a slowdown which had its quick-witted side. Arnie was walking ever-so-slowly alongside an engine that was crawling up Manhattan’s east side tracks. The exasperated engineer finally called out to Arnie to “speed it up a little; you’re making me look bad.” Arnie had a great sense of humor.

Arnie loved music, especially early jazz, and enjoyed classical music, even opera. He always had a record on, playing the likes of Louis Armstrong, Ben Webster, Benny Goodman, Billie Holiday and the occasional Pavarotti.

Many folks didn’t know Arnie was a serious scholar of Shakespeare. Over the course of decades, he read and studied Shakespeare, developing a keen and deep understanding of the playwright’s work from a class perspective.

Organizing in later years

Arnie worked as an electrician and a grip in the film industry for many years. For health reasons he left that work and ultimately came to own and operate AS-IS, a small antique book and record store in Manhattan’s West Village. The store — always with music playing in the background — was a place where many people would stop by for coffee, political discourse and often a good laugh. Arnie always took a particular interest in the young people in his life. He mentored many.

Arnie’s last few years were marked by failing health. His contribution to the building of a communist future will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

Protests vs police terror

No worker is free until all workers are free from capitalism



BAY AREA, CA, June 1—Thousands of cars and bicyclists caravanned through Oakland on May 31 to protest George Floyd's racist murder and those of many others by the kkkcops. Floyd was executed in a public lynching. His murderer, Derek Chauvin—the subject of 18 complaints and three previous shootings of suspects, one fatal—has been charged with murder.

The May 31 caravan involved many younger workers, Black, Latin, Asian and white. The mass rage against racism is thrilling.

Progressive Labor Party had 8 cars, 17 people in the caravan. We got our message out with posters and red flags. We distributed CHALLENGE and over 200 PLP leaflets condemning police murder and calling for revolution. Stuck in the massive multiracial "rush hour," we talked to people in cars alongside us. One immigrant worker from El Salvador reminded us that the U.S. military had armed and trained the Salvadoran military and criminal gangs to terrorize rebelling workers in El Salvador just as the police function in the U.S. Capitalism rules with racist terror all over the world.

The Oakland caravan was part of a multira-

cial uprising against racist police murder. The San Francisco Bay Area has seen demonstrations every day—in Oakland, San Jose, San Francisco, and elsewhere—of tens of thousands of Black, Latin, Asian, white and indigenous workers. These marches echo the response of millions of workers worldwide to this racism. The police responded violently to non-violent protests. 15,000 high school students, parents and teachers protested police murders in Oakland on June 1. Unprovoked, cops tear gassed them and shot rubber bullets—before the curfew of 8 PM. They did the same in San Jose on May 31.

Psychologists and the legal system defend racist cops

The Department of Justice and District Attorneys have protected fascist police who kill us. In 2015, psychologist William Lewinski toured the U.S. training cops to kill and rely on him to take care of the legal end. In the last decade, he had testified or consulted in 200 legal cases defending police accused of murder. His company, Force Science Institute, has trained tens of thousands of police officers to shoot pre-emptively before they see a gun (New York Times, 8/2/2015). Fearing our class unity, the bosses call protestors looters. They

plant rock-throwing window-busting provocateurs to discredit them.

Can we organize workers to overthrow capitalism and its state and create a communist society? Workers' response to George Floyd's racist murder by cops tells us, "YES." Our job is to take our message to workers: capitalism needs racism, and racist police terror is part of what holds the capitalists in power. Only communism can end this.

Workers unite against racism

U.S. capitalism was built on racism: divide Black, white and indigenous workers and keep the rulers on top (see The Road not Taken by Lerone Bennett)

Black and Latin workers are exploited and oppressed far more than white workers, particularly white male workers; this creates millions of super-profits for the capitalist class (see page 4). All workers experience the horrors of life under capitalism: job insecurity, pandemics, wars, inadequate wages, bad medical care, false arrest, police murder and homelessness. Black, Latin, indigenous, Asian, and immigrant workers—especially women—have far worse conditions, but these horrors affect all workers.

We need to unite as comrades in the struggle against capitalism. When one group of workers is stratified, isolated and attacked to create a "low wage group of the reserved army of labor," all workers suffer from lower wages and worse living conditions.

Loyal to our class rather than "race," workers can overcome divisions. We need to see through this divisive strategy and unite to fight for the needs of all. This means a communist world, a world where we work to serve one another's needs, not the bosses' profits. As Marx said a century ago, "Labor cannot emancipate itself in the white skin, where in the black it is branded."☺



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

U.S. liberal rulers' world order built on mass murder

NYT — ...The loss of...American supremacy...is shaking the foundations of America's hegemony...ill-equipped to deal with the coronavirus pandemic...(can't shoot it, after all)...American officials...now talking openly about a "new Cold War" to confront Beijing, and...wonder whether the United States should get back...[to] covertly toppling unfriendly governments...

...Winarso, a man in Indonesia...who cares for the survivors of the mass murder...in the 1960s...was trying to buy rice so his community wouldn't starve under lockdown...America's economic and political power...was truly victorious in the 20th century...because "we all got the U.S.-centered version of capitalism...Asked...how America won...He answered quickly, "You killed us..."The individuals whose lives were shattered so this global order could be constructed...[were victims] of mass murder programs that targeted civilian opponents of Washington's Cold War allies...

[Indonesia]...is the most significant example. In 1965 and 1966, the American government assisted in the murder of approximately one million Indonesian civilians...one of the most important turning points of the Cold War he U.S.-backed military used a failed uprising as a pretext to crush the Indonesian left...and then took control of the country...The United States aided and abetted the mass murder in Indonesia, providing material support, encouraging the killings and rewarding the perpetrators...not the first time the U.S. ...had done this. In 1954, the American ambassador to Guatemala...handed kill lists to that country's military. And in Iraq in 1968, the CIA provided lists of suspected communists and leftists to the ruling Baath Party.

Indonesia in 1965...the slaughter obliterated the popular, unarmed Partal Kominus, the largest communist party outside of China and the Soviet Union,...replacing [it] with General Suharto, a

right-wing dictator...one of Washington's most important Cold War allies...Far-right groups around the world...[drew] inspiration from the "Jakarta" model and built copycat programs. They were Assisted by American officials...that moved across borders...Right-wing terrorists in Chile painted "Jakarta" on the houses of socialists, threatened that they too would be killed. After the CIA-backed coup in 1973, they were...By the end of the 1970s, most of South America was governed by authoritarian, pro-American governments that secured power by mass murder. By 1990, death squads in Central America pushed the Latin American death toll into the hundreds of thousands...The United States government was behind much of the violence...made possible [by] a version of crony capitalism that comprises daily reality for billions of people,...an integral part of globalization [in]...the world...

...Part of the reason the current order is so fragile is because so many people around the world...can physically feel in their bodies that Washington used brutality to construct it...The United States is not, in fact, beloved as a beacon of freedom, democracy and human rights. From Argentina to the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor to Iran, millions ...are skeptical of Washington's intentions.

Racism amid virus = super-burden on Black workers' lives

NYT — Black Americans...[are] more likely to lose jobs or income in the recession...as states locked down their economies;...are more worried about the financial toll from the virus than white Americans and have far fewer resources available to ride it out...and are dying at higher rates from the virus than whites...Black households are confronting...a widening economic chasm...Many Black workers...are either essential workers on the front lines, exposed to the virus, or they have lost their jobs. Black workers make up 11.9 percent of all employees but 17 percent of front-line workers...

The jobless rate...is historically...twice as high

for black people as for white people amid even the best economic conditions. ...Factors...include racial discrimination and access to educational opportunities...[and] against black...have lower educational rates...the outgrowth of long-running opportunity disparities...

...Black...and other minority workers could suffer disproportionately as companies call back some — but not all — furloughed employees.

Black workers suffer from...a "first fired and last hired" phenomenon...Workers...stuck on the labor market's sidelines...skills become outdated, making it harder...to get back into decent-paying jobs...Minority job losses...[are] more likely to turn permanent. Black workers make far less...than white workers...are more heavily concentrated in jobs in low-paying service industries...[and] earn less at every education level than comparable whites...Low wages mean thin cushion...In part because they make less, black workers accumulate less wealth over time...result[ing in] less money in their bank accounts to make it through extended economic weakness...in recovering from the pandemic.

U.S. capitalist economy becoming the Greatest Depression

Shadowstats—

- U.S. economy was already in trouble before the pandemic, because of intensifying Federal Reserve policy malfeasance and Federal government fiscal malpractice.
- The Covid-19 pandemic shutdown has overwritten that developing recession with an economic collapse and surging headline unemployment that will rival the Great Depression...and anything seen in modern U.S. economic history in the months ahead. Second-quarter 2020 GDP remains on track to rival or surpass the deepest contraction in the Great Depression

COMMUNISM MEANS NO POLICE

The proletariat seeks to transform the world according to its own world outlook, and so does the bourgeoisie...What is correct develops in the course of struggle with what is wrong.

– Mao Zedong

The mass antiracist rebellion sparked by the murder of George Floyd has brought to the light what Black and Latin workers have always known, the role of the police is to terrorize the working class, particularly Black workers. The police cannot be reformed because in killing Black workers they are doing their job to maintain capitalism.

“Defund the Police” has become a mass slogan of the rebellion. Millions of young people around the world are demanding a world with no cops. The capitalists will never do this. Capitalism is based on the bosses exploiting the working class for profit. The bosses use both racism and the police to maintain this system. Racism is used to justify low wages and keep the working class divided. The police enforce racism and the laws that protect exploitation. People are not equal before the eyes of the law because the law is there to maintain inequality. The bosses steal billions every day, it’s called business. The laws are there to protect them. Capitalism and equality are incompatible.

The whole history of the police is one of defending the bosses’ interests by attacking the working class. Capturing escaped slaves, terrorizing Black neighborhoods, portraying Black and Latin workers as dangerous, breaking strikes of all workers and protecting what the bosses have stolen from us are why the police exist. The bosses need the cops to protect them and their racist system like fish need water.

The bosses build racism, mistrust and fear among our class to divide us and turn us towards the police. The bosses’ racism and anti-working-class ideology help keep us oppressed. But our class does have experience liberating ourselves. The struggle of the working class in China shows we can build a society based on trusting the working class. The working class in China under the leadership of the communist party built a society without cops. This was not some small experiment, but a massive transformation of a society that involved 600 million people.

No exploitation – No need for cops

From the 1940’s to 60’s the world was inspired by the working class in China fighting for communism, even as the capitalists re-established themselves in the Soviet Union. The Progressive Labor Party came out of this struggle and today we fight for communism even as capitalism has returned to China. The revolutionary war against the Chinese capitalists lasted from 1946 to 1949. During this period the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) established liberated zones of workers’ power under the leadership of the CCP. The zones were bases for the working class led by the CCP to both build a workers state and direct the ongoing war against the capitalists for state power across the whole of China. In these zones the capitalist legal structure was eliminated and replaced with a political system that relied on the working class. This system of collective working-class society carried over into the period after the revolution and was maintained at some level until the return of capitalism in the 1970’s.

The CCP replaced the complex system of laws that protected exploitation with a straightforward code of comradely behavior based on serving the people. The police and courts were replaced by workers’ meetings led by the CCP where problems between ordinary people were worked out. Guidelines, such as put the needs of the people before your own, treat people in a comradely way, be honest with your comrades and work to build a socialist society, could be applied by groups of workers to look at any situation that arose.

POLICE DRESS CODE



The CCP “system relied heavily on education and persuasion rather than force and upon the use of social pressure rather than governmental power. [It] stressed the importance of internalizing how to be part of society and pointed out the ineffectiveness of using fear of punishment.” Each individual was deeply involved in dealing with problems and enforcing the solutions. There were no police or formal courts. (China Quarterly, a British journal of research on China, Oct – Dec 1970)

On resolving contradictions among the people: "unity-criticism-unity" CCP slogan

The revolution in China did not eliminate selfish thinking and other problems between people. Undoing exploitation and building a collective society allowed problems like stealing, fights and disputes to be handled constructively.

Daily life was organized into collectives and people dealt with problems. Communist “cadre [or leaders] organized the meetings. These cadre were instructed to rely on the masses. Any individual could air grievances and have the group take up the problem by appealing directly to the [Party] collectives.” (China Quarterly Oct – Dec 1970) The ideology was based on confidence in workers to build and strengthen society through collective struggle based on criticism and self-criticism. The goal in resolving the dispute was to strengthen the comrades and strengthen society.

In the book Fanshen, about the building of socialism in China, a man attacked someone in his town after a heated argument. The man was tackled and held by people in the town until a meeting was organized. At the meeting the man was confronted by his comrades who criticized him. In the meeting it came out that he had been encouraged in the attack by the leaders of the local Catholic Church whose land had been distributed to the workers in the town. The meeting decided that the bigger problem was the church and the attacker could be a productive member of the town

and assigned him to work for 15 days on the land of a soldier who was on the front lines.

Under capitalism people try to create alternatives to the police. These efforts help combat the racist lies pushed by the bosses and build unity and confidence in our class. In Minneapolis a Native American group, AIM started neighborhood patrols to document police violence against indigenous workers. It grew into looking out for people in the neighborhood in a broader way. The group started by “walking the streets deterring both police and intra-community violence by intervening or simply bearing witness...[the organization] has expanded the definition of patrol duties to include cooking hot breakfasts for the unhoused and checking on overlooked neighbors” (Mother Jones, 6/13/20)

The limits of these situations is that capitalism requires cops. Until we unite under a revolutionary communist strategy, the bosses will succeed in finding ways to undermine people’s confidence in each other through the elevation of racism and real or instigated disputes. This is why the CHOP (Capitol Hill Organized Protest) in Seattle, another example of the working-class rejecting police oppression, can only be temporary. The working class needs to be organized as a communist party. To end police attacks requires ending exploitation.

Make revolution and keep working on it

The bad ideas of capitalism, racism, sexism, selfishness, individualism etc. are deeply ingrained in all of us. Even under a working-class communist society undoing 500 years of capitalism will take a long time and a lot of struggle. The reason communism can tackle these problems is because it is a society based on the needs of the working class. Our class has a profound interest in unity and ending exploitation. Racist terror is essential to capitalism. The police are the front-line forces of the bosses in carrying out that terror.✚

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